

The Croase House,
Kingsland,

April 10th, 1924.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,—

I beg to lay before you my report for the year ending December 31st, 1923. The population as estimated by the Registrar General is 5,636. The district comprises the town of Leominster and a rural district known as the Out-Parish, containing 7,890 acres. The only industries are such as meet the requirements of agriculture. The return of the Registrar General gives 75 deaths of inhabitants of the district: 47 males and 28 females, several of these dying in institutions in other districts. In addition to these there were 7 deaths in the Workhouse and 3 in the Cottage Hospital of people from the rural district which are not included in this return. This gives the low average of 13.3 per thousand per annum. The causes of death were as under:—

| | CIVILIANS ONLY. | | | | M. | F. |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|
| All Causes | ... | ... | ... | ... | 47 | 28 |
| Measles | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 |
| Tuberculosis of respiratory system | | | | | 2 | 4 |
| Cancer, malignant disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 3 |
| Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 4 |
| Heart disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 9 |
| Arterio-sclerosis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | — |
| Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | — |
| Other respiratory diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — |
| Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) | ... | | | | 2 | 1 |
| Cirrhosis of liver | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — |
| Acute and chronic nephritis | ... | | | | 4 | 1 |
| Congenital debility & malformation | | | | | | |
| premature birth | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | — |
| Suicide | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 |
| Other defined diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 | 3 |
| Causes ill-defined or unknown | ... | | | | 1 | — |

There were 10 deaths under 1 year: 9 boys and 1 girl, one boy being illegitimate or 1.7 per thousand per annum.

The total births were 118: 68 boys and 50 girls. Of these 5 boys and 4 girls were illegitimate.

The amount of Poor Law Relief was £440 6s. 4d. for the Borough and £34 3s. 6d. for the Out-Parish. The hospitals in the district are much used. They are the Cottage Hospital, Leominster, the General Hospital, Hereford, and the Eye and Ear Hospital, also in Hereford.

Water.—The Borough is supplied by its own water works, pumped to the reservoir from a deep well in the Midsummer Meadows. The water is of excellent quality and sufficient quantity. The Out-Parish is supplied by wells and springs. The rivers Lugg and Pinsley pass through the town. They have been greatly improved by the thorough cleaning they have undergone by the Lugg Drainage Board and are practically free from pollution. The sample analysed in connection with the proposed swimming bath proved the purity of the Lugg water.

The town is drained by a thoroughly efficient system of sewers, only a very few houses being unconnected with them and these few are served by earth closets. The sewers discharge themselves into what is known as the town ditch below the station. This ditch runs for a mile or more and finally empties itself into the River Arrow a few hundred yards before this stream joins the Lugg. When I have visited the place I have never seen any sediment for more than a few hundred yards from the mouth of the ditch and I know of no houses anywhere in the stream from there down which would obtain their water from the Lugg. In spite of the advantage resulting from the drainage scheme, the district through which the town ditch runs is subject to heavy floods which render any sewage scheme impossible while the forming of large filter beds on the higher ground with a powerful pumping plant would mean a most costly business for the town. Earth closets and privies are in use in the Out-Parish.

Scavenging and Refuse is collected by the town carts each week and in congested districts twice. All bins are movable.

The following is the report of your Inspector:—

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|--|
| NOTICES SERVED | ... | ... | ... | 13 |
| NOTICES COMPLIED WITH | ... | ... | ... | 13 |
| NOTICES OUTSTANDING | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| LETTERS WRITTEN | ... | ... | ... | 42 |
| COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| NUISANCES ABATED | ... | ... | ... | 38 |
| LEGAL PROCEEDINGS TAKEN | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| INFECTIOUS DISEASES :— | | | | |
| Enquiries | ... | ... | ... | 38 |
| Removals to Hospital | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| | | | | One suspected case and two in contact for small pox. |
| Premises disinfected | ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| Bedding, Clothing, &c., disinfected | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Schools disinfected | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| HOUSES :— | | | | |
| Inspected | ... | ... | ... | 22 |
| Condemned as unfit for habitation | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| Made fit for habitation | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Houses demolished (partly or entirely) | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| | | | | Wholly by fire and 2 partly do. |
| Houses erected | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Houses cleansed and repaired | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Overcrowding abated | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| WATER SUPPLY :— | | | | |
| Wells sunk | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| Wells deepened, repaired, or cleansed | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Wells closed | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| Samples analysed | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Water certificates granted | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| Connected to main supply | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| HOUSE DRAINS :— | | | | |
| Laid, relaid, cleansed, trapped | ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| Spouting, waste pipes, sinks, &c., rectified | ... | ... | ... | 35 |
| WATER CLOSETS, URINALS, &c. :— | | | | |
| Provided | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Improved and repaired | ... | ... | ... | 31 |
| PRIVIES, ASHPITS :— | | | | |
| Provided | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| Repaired | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| Converted to w.c.'s | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| Converted to Pail Closets | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| SCAVENGING :— | | | | |
| Privies, Receptacles, &c., cleaned | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Ashpits, Cesspits, &c., emptied | ... | ... | ... | 22 |
| | | | | outside of drainage and refuse collecting area. |
| SLAUGHTER-HOUSES INSPECTED, &c. | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS INSPECTED, &c. | ... | ... | ... | 13 |
| WORKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES INSPECTED, CLEANSED, &c. | ... | ... | ... | 42 |
| UN SOUND FOOD SEIZED | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| NUISANCES FROM ANIMALS IMPROPERLY KEPT AND ACCUMULATIONS OF MANURE REMOVED | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| MISCELLANEOUS NUISANCES ABATED | ... | ... | ... | 25 |

JAMES BUDD,
Sanitary Inspector.

Leominster Urban Sanitary District.

There are no offensive trades or lodging-houses.

The registered cow sheds in 1923 were 13. Your Inspector reports them as being kept in a satisfactory condition. The Dairies, Cow Sheds and Milk Shops orders are published in the district. The police see to the taking of samples and the County Medical Officer of Health sees to Mothers' and Children's milk.

There is a public Abattoir in the town, and 4 private Slaughter Houses. Your Inspector visits them regularly and sees that they are kept in good condition. No tubercular carcasses have been found.

| | Number | | | | | | | |
|------------|----------|---|------------|---|-------------|---|-------|---|
| | In 1914. | | Jan., 1920 | | Dec., 1922. | | 1923. | |
| Registered | ... | 5 | ... | 4 | ... | 5 | ... | 5 |
| Licensed | ... | 1 | ... | 0 | ... | 0 | ... | 0 |

Six lots of unsound food were condemned.

Infectious Diseases.—During the year the following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified :—

| | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Tuberculosis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Scarlatina | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19 |
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Chicken Pox | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21 |
| Erysipelas | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |

During parts of June and July the Leominster Junior Schools were closed on account of Mumps, Coughs, and Colds.

Every assistance is given by the County Medical Officer in making Bacteriological Examination of Swabs, &c., sent to him, and he is constantly called upon to give such assistance. There is a Hospital for Small Pox, situated at Ebnal, in the Out-Parish, which is always ready at an hour's notice. It was visited by an Inspector of the Ministry of Health in 1922 and passed as satisfactory. Other cases of Infectious disease are allowed the use of the Hospital when there is no scare of Small Pox. Verminous persons are sent to the Workhouse to be cleansed.

There is a Dispensary for Tubercular patients at the Cottage Hospital where the County Tuberculosis Officer attends on Fridays. The Oswestry Orthopedic Hospital also has a room there where patients are seen and attended to.

There is a certain amount of overcrowding which cannot be remedied until more houses are available. The bulk of the houses are up to a very fair standard. There are no unhealthy areas.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

1.—GENERAL.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| 1. Estimated population | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5,636 |
| 2. General death-rate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13.3 |
| 3. Death-rate from tuberculosis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1.0 |
| 4. Infantile mortality | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1.7 |
| 5. Number of dwelling-houses of all classes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,470 |
| 6. Number of working-class dwelling-houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 853 |
| 7. Number of new working-class houses to be erected | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 |

2.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

I. Inspections.

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------------|
| 1. Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | ... | ... | ... | ... | All Working Class, 6 |
| 2. Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910... | ... | ... | ... | ... | None |
| 3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | ... | ... | ... | ... | None |
| 4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |

II. Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|---|
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers | ... | ... | 6 |
|---|-----|-----|---|

III. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. *Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.*

| | |
|--|------|
| 1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 5 |
| 2. Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit— | |
| (a) by owners | 2 |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | None |
| 3. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close | None |

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

| | |
|---|------|
| 1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... | 7 |
| 2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied— | |
| (a) by owners | 3 |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | None |

C. *Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909*

None

3.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

| | |
|--|------|
| Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a), Part I., or (b), Part II., of the Act of 1890 | None |
|--|------|

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT WILLIAMS,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Chairman of the Urban Sanitary Authority.

Leominster.